‘CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM’ ADDENDUM

AN ESSAY BY

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By Larry Southwick

Obviously, there’s a lot more that can be said, just to add a few important comments.

First of all, *the Establishment Clause is part of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." This clause serves as a fundamental principle in American law, ensuring that the government does not endorse or establish a national religion, nor does it favor one religion over another.*
https://www.bing.com/search for ‘US constitution no establishment of religion.’

It’s clearly unconstitutional but, from the online description of Christian Nationalism, proponents recognize and reject that constitutional limitation. And within the current political ideology, they don’t feel the need to amend it; they just intend to ignore it and proceed with their agenda as they are with a number of other legal issues. And, so far, the Supreme Court hasn’t been a concern, given the conservative majority.

Second, it’s blatantly discriminatory and restrictive against other religions and non-believers, ignoring their rights to freedom of expression also enshrined in the same First Amendment: *"Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances".*

And here’s what it looks like when closely held religious principles are applied to groups of people – the treatment of LGBTQI+ individuals and groups. They have been discriminated against because of their constitutional choice and expression, their freedom has been restricted, and many incidents of serious physical harm including murder have occurred. Same-sex marriage has become generally allowed but is still opposed by many religions. People in same-sex marriages have been fired or denied employment. They oppose those in same-sex marriages from having children. Transgender and intersex people are denied reasonable medical treatment, etc. Furthermore, ‘Christians’ are rolling back currently accepted freedoms from them and reestablishing previously held restrictions.

Third, the ‘Christian Principles’ quoted in my original essay are not simply or exclusively ‘Christian’, they are part of the natural moral code imprinted in the conscience of every human being by God, regardless of religion or culture or individual belief. They are universal and should apply to all activities by governments, organizations, groups and individuals. The idea that they are exclusively ‘Christian’ is itself a false premise.

As I’ve been studying and writing over the last few years, I file articles by other authors under categories that help me understand issues. The following are several related to Christian Nationalism.

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM - A new poll gives us insight into a troubling anti-American movement
By Jennifer Rubin, Washington Post, February 9, 2023
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/02/09/prri-poll-christian-nationalism/?utm_

“Christian nationalism is a new term for a worldview that has been with us since the founding of our country — the idea that America is destined to be a promised land for European Christians,” PRRI president and founder Robert P. Jones explained in a news release on the survey of more than 6,000 Americans. “While most Americans today embrace pluralism and reject this anti-democratic claim, majorities of white evangelical Protestants and Republicans remain animated by this vision of a white Christian America.”

The poll used the following beliefs to gauge how deeply respondents embraced Christian nationalism:

- *“The U.S. government should declare America a Christian nation.”*
- *“U.S. laws should be based on Christian values.”*
- *“If the U.S. moves away from our Christian foundations, we will not have a country anymore.”*
- *“Being Christian is an important part of being truly American.”*
- *“God has called Christians to exercise dominion over all areas of American society.”*

Old-school Christian nationalism's avatar of racism, antisemitism and conspiracies
Story by Religion News Service, March 7, 2023
https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/old-school-christian-nationalism-s-avatar-of-racism-antisemitism-and-conspiracies/ar-AA18kSoo?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=6df8a1e6eb464a8dac122f4e469cf7ba&ei=34

The Rev. Gerald L.K. Smith loved Jesus so much he built a seven-story statue on the top of an Ozark mountain to honor his savior. Smith loved America, too, but despised many of his fellow Americans. Especially those who were Black, Jewish or immigrants.

An ordained Disciples of Christ pastor, master showman, skilled fundraiser, prolific writer and “minister of hate,” Smith spent decades warning white Christians that they were in danger of losing their country to devious forces conspiring against them.

To combat those forces, Smith founded a political party, ran for U.S. Senate and churned out tens of thousands of copies of The Cross and the Flag, a monthly magazine dedicated to the cause of Christian nationalism.

For Smith, that work was defined not by Jesus or the Constitution. His main concern was preserving Christian power and what he called “traditional Americanism.”

“The first principle for which we stand is: Preserve America as a Christian Nation being conscious of the fact that there is a highly organized campaign to substitute Jewish tradition for Christian tradition,” he wrote in “This Is Christian Nationalism,” which outlined the 10 pillars of his movement.

Christian nationalism is the real threat to democracy, not Trump
Opinion by Herb Paine, Arizona Republic, December 26, 2023

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/trump-isn-t-the-real-threat-to-democracy-christian-nationalism-is/ar-AA1m3e34?ocid=msedgntp&pc=LCTS&cvid=d9decd79fd8d4de7bbcdfbd21908970b&ei=127

Meanwhile, at the local level, a related movement, Christian nationalism, constitutes an equally serious creeping threat to democracy, pluralism and diversity.

Its driving force is the National Association of Christian Lawmakers. (NACL)

NACL's mission is to "formulate model statutes, ordinances and resolutions based upon a biblical worldview for introduction in cities, states and the Federal government."

NACL now has a legislative presence in more than 30 states, including Arizona, participating in the drafting of model legislation "to reestablish and protect conservative values in America."

NACL's initiatives to Christianize the nation and merge church and state (essentially dismissing the Constitution's Establishment Clause) are inspired by Christian dominionism.

Its principles are "a world-changing strategy" to "bring Godly change" to America by transforming seven spheres of societal influence: religion, family education, government, media, arts and entertainment, and business.

All these initiatives are a precursor of what is yet to come. Pending actions include:
- *an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to recognize America's Christian heritage;*
- *the reinstatement of prayer in public schools;*
- *the enshrinement of a "Christian nationalist interpretation" of American history in school curricula;*
- *immigration restrictions; and*
- *stronger governmental actions to restrict "immoral behavior."*

Speaker Mike Johnson wants Christianity to rule
Opinion by David Key, Progressive Perspectives, Tribune News Service
January 22, 2024
https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/commentary-speaker-mike-johnson-wants-christianity-to-rule/ar-BB1h3IKc?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=dbdf368c740b4da0973f8040341bad7e&ei=138

Recently elected U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., is a man of faith — something many Americans, including myself, can relate to. What is less agreeable, however, is Johnson's lifelong mission to use the power of the government to impose his own faith upon others.

Recently, Johnson attacked the constitutional principle of separation of church and state, calling it a "misnomer."

Wielding the government as a tool of any church will only divide and further alienate people from religion, when our role as servant leaders should be to unite.

Many faith leaders know we need separation of church and state to preserve everyone's right to worship as they choose and are pushing back against efforts to govern according to one religion.